

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 44

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Volume II

The International Week

Economic Cooperation Administrator Hoffman warned the OEEC Council in Paris of the necessity for more progress toward integrating Western Europe's economy. A GA subcommittee recommended postponement of the disposition of Eritrea to the next GA so that a UN commission might first ascertain the wishes of the inhabitants. Meanwhile the GA Political Committee called upon Albania to cease attacks upon UN observers (46-6-3) after the Special Political Committee had voted (38-5-8) to set up a UN field force to protect such personnel. In Rome, the World Peace Partisans convened to consider "measures" against the Atlantic Pact, found it necessary to deal initially with a gate-crashing Yugoslav delegation.

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WFTU drive to organize strategic industries reaches climax. Efforts of the Sovietized World Federation of Trade Unions to organize workers in strategic Western industries were marked last week by: (1) scheduling of conferences in European and Latin American cities to establish international unions of postal, telegraph and radio workers, food workers, transport workers, and petroleum workers; (2) a pledge from the WFTU Metal and Engineering Workers International of financial support for the US Steelworkers "to enable them to intensify their combat"; and (3) prospective expulsion of leftwing US trade unions from the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) for continued defiance of the CIO's anti-WFTU stand. These developments make it increasingly apparent that the conflict between Eastern and Western labor is now being fought out within key industries, control of which is sought by the Kremlin.

The effectiveness of WFTU appeals to workers within such industries as Mining and Merchant Marine will be determined primarily by the strength of the resistance encountered from the long established international trade secretariats (e.g. the International Miners Federation, the International Transport Workers) and from anti-Communist workers in the corresponding national industrial unions. Thus, among the British miners, where resistance is strong, the WFTU drive will be relatively ineffective. Among French and Italian miners, however, where resistance is poorly organized, Communist "action" groups will continue to hold their unions to the line fixed by the WFTU and Soviet labor.

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A critical test of the WFTU's drive to draw workers from key Western industries into its own international unions is taking place at the CIO National Convention in Cleveland. The powerful Westcoast Longshoremen (ILWU) and Electrical Workers (UE), spokesmen for the Communist-led industrial unions whose future in the national organization is at stake, have proclaimed their intention of maintaining contact with the WFTU regardless of the CIO withdrawal. The proposal of ILWU and UE that the CIO recognize their right to "autonomy" is unacceptable to the anti-Communist CIO leadership. When this proposal is rejected, the leftwing unions will probably be forced to choose between submission to the CIO leadership and formation of a third, Communist-oriented US labor movement. A ready-made beginning for such a movement exists in the "National Labor Committee in Defense of Peace" recently organized by 42 leftwing AFL and CIO unions at Chicago.

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Proposal for a Near Eastern Development Authority. A proposal of the UN Economic Survey Mission that the US and UK with other states ready to assist, establish a Near Eastern Settlement and Development Authority (NEEDA) may incur criticism as an attempt to bypass the UN. NEEDA would be headed by a US national and while consulting with appropriate UN agencies such as the present PCC or its successors, would operate outside of the UN framework. It would carry out relief work programs and plan long-range developments not tied to resettlement projects, which as a practical matter would, nevertheless, be calculated to absorb Palestinian Arabs whether identified as refugees or not. Such an organization might obtain

better cooperation from the Arabs than the ESM by reason of its freedom from what the Arabs regard as a UN taint. The sponsors of EESDA believe this set up under US chairmanship might obtain financial support from the US Congress more readily than a UN body. On the other hand, UN Secretary General Lie regards establishment of any such organ outside the UN framework with misgivings and there are fears that the US and UK might be charged with imperialistic designs in seeking to bypass the UN.

Developments in the Italian Colonies question. The recommendation (16-3-2) of a General Assembly subcommittee to postpone disposition of Eritrea to the next GA session so that a UN Commission can meanwhile ascertain the wishes of the population, would if followed by the GA, at least eliminate one complicating factor from this multilateral jigsaw puzzle. The tendency to interlock disposition of each colony with that of the others for trading purposes has so far blocked progress toward even a partial solution. Thus, to put aside one phase of the problem even temporarily would reduce the difficulty in attaining agreement on the rest.

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World Peace Partisans excel Yugoslavs and attack Atlantic Pact. A 70-nation Rome meeting of the Communist-led World Committee of Peace Partisans, called to consider "concrete measures against the Atlantic Pact," unexpectedly had to consider first a demand for the expulsion of the Yugoslav National Peace Committee. The presence in Rome of an uninvited Yugoslav delegation, insisting on "the complete independence of all Communist states," underscored the necessity for such actions. The demand for its expulsion, nominally originating with Czech and Italian "peace committees," reflected anew the Kremlin's determination to squeeze out Titoist Yugoslavia from Stalinist-controlled international front organizations.

The central themes of the Rome meeting were enunciated by the Italian Left-Socialist Nanni and the French Communist chairman Joliot-Curie, who called for mass public support for "the struggle against aggressive pacts" and "reduction of armaments." Joliot-Curie insisted on the possibility of reaching "international agreements to ban atomic weapons" and of using atomic energy for "peaceful purposes" while Nanni asked for a "return to the spirit of the Yalta Agreements." The extent of popular acceptance of these themes within Italy may be limited by the Vatican warning issued the preceding day against decisions reached by a "group of Communists and their sympathizers." Such support may be further diminished when the Italian public learns of the pro-Soviet atomic research record of Joliot-Curie and his British scientific associate, J. R. Dugworth, also at Rome.

Soviet views on atomic control unchanged. Recent Soviet proposals for atomic control are almost word for word identical with those presented to the AIC by Gromyko on 12 June 1947. Revision for inspection is still limited by the adverb "periodically." Gaps left in the mechanism for international security are still to be filled by reliance on the great powers to supply accurate information to each other. The USSR makes up for these lacunae by liberally interspersing throughout its proposal mention of "strict" and "rigid" control. The control thus appears more adjective than substantive.

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IHC extended. A nine month extension of the International Refugee Organization to 31 March 1950 will leave several hundred thousand refugees still to be resettled. Member governments have been urged by IHC to draft plans for a permanent solution to this problem and Secretary General Lie has proposed the establishment of a UN service similar to that of the League of Nations, to aid stateless persons. Unless some such steps are taken it may again be necessary to extend the life of the IHO when its present lease expires.

Veto unimpaired. The recent Big Five agreement to consult prior to important decisions in the UN Security Council does not touch the basis of the veto problem. Although this informal machinery may slightly reduce the frequency of vetoes, it makes no provisions for waiving the veto on selected categories of questions, such as admission of new members to the UN. Thus, while Soviet agreement to consult superficially appears conciliatory, in fact, it represents no impairment of the veto power.